

REMARKS

Claims 7-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 8 is amended.

No new matter is added.

I. Claim Objection

Claim 8 was objected to because line 6 recites "+wafer" instead of "wafer." Claim 8 is amended to correct this typographical error.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Based Upon Yokokawa

Claims 7-10 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)/102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,959,854 (hereinafter Yokokawa).

In addition, claims 11-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yokokawa.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

First, Yokokawa cannot be applied under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). As explained in MPEP §706.02(f)(1), Example 5, because the International Application was filed after November 29, 2000 and was not published in English (WO 02/086975 was published only in Japanese), Yokokawa, as a U.S. national stage of the International Application, has no prior art date under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

The corresponding WO 02/086975 reference is available as of its publication date, October 31, 2002.

However, filed herewith is a verified translation of JP 2002-1942, filed January 9, 2002 in Japan, for which foreign priority is claimed in the present application. As the present application claims priority to January 9, 2002, before the October 31, 2002 publication date of WO 02/086975, WO 02/086975 is antedated and removed as prior art against the present claims.

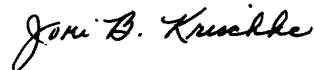
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections relying upon Yokokawa are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 7-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 22, 2006

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